

Chief Wastewater Plant Operator - 2825

Primary Reason Why Classification Exists

To perform skilled work in the operations and maintenance of a municipal wastewater treatment plant on an assigned shift

Distinguishing Features of the Class

An employee in this class is responsible for supervising the operations and maintenance of a wastewater treatment plant. Emphasis of the work is on supervising the maintenance of plant equipment, controlling the treatment process operations, and supervising plant personnel. Examples of responsibilities include selecting and training personnel, public relations and with the general public and plant vendors or products and services, developing plans for equipment maintenance and replacement, completing various reports for the city and state government, and performs related work. This employee makes operational decisions in response to problems reported by the wastewater plant operators. Work is performed under general supervision of the Wastewater Plant Superintendent and is evaluated on the basis of quality and safety of effluent and efficient plant operation and is reviewed by conferences, site visits, and written reports.

Essential Duties

- Plans and assigns work of plant operators; coordinates activities between shifts and fills-in for employees during absences; evaluates operators work performance; trains new employees in plant operations and makes recommendations to Superintendent on employee progress
- Monitors and records readings from meters, gauges, and instruments; reviews laboratory analyses and ensures equipment is functioning properly; conducts laboratory tests and adjusts pH and chlorine as needed
- Makes regular tours of plant to ensure optimum plant operations; performs preventative maintenance and adjustments on motors, pumps, compressors, blowers, valves, and other apparatus to meet changing operating conditions; transfers, conditions, and mixes sludge in thickeners and holding tanks
- Inspects plant buildings and equipment; notes need for maintenance and repair work; assists with maintenance and repair of equipment; inspects lift stations and performs necessary tasks to ensure optimum operations; advises and consults with supervisors on unusual operating problems or the need for major repairs to equipment
- Cleans and clears catch basins, troughs, and other components
- Prepares and maintains pesticide records and reports
- Serves as the ORC in absence of Wastewater Plant Superintendent
- Maintains reasonable and predictable attendance
- Performs related tasks as required

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

- Thorough knowledge of the principles, practices, and equipment used in wastewater treatment plant operation including operating characteristics and maintenance requirements
- Thorough knowledge of hydraulic, chemical, and mechanical principles pertinent to wastewater treatment plant operations
- Thorough knowledge of state and federal regulations regarding sludge handling and disposal, and effluent quality and discharge regulations

- Thorough knowledge of occupational hazards of the work and of necessary safety precautions
- Thorough knowledge of requirements and procedures for applying pesticides in ornamental and turf areas surrounding the plant
- Ability to plan and evaluate the work of others
- Ability to detect (visually or by hearing) defects in the operation of mechanical equipment and to determine proper remedial measures
- Ability to understand and follow oral and written instructions
- Ability to read meters and charts accurately and to maintain records of shift operations; ability to perform necessary laboratory tests
- Ability to perform the tasks of the plant operator; ability to prepare and maintain records
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with associates
- Skill in the operation and care of laboratory testing and analysis equipment and instruments

Physical Requirements

Work in this class is heavy work requiring exertion of in excess of 100 pounds of force occasionally, and/or in excess of 50 pounds of force frequently, and/or in excess of 20 pounds of force constantly to move objects. Employee must have the visual acuity to prepare and analyze data and figures, perform extensive reading, conduct visual inspection of small defects or parts, operate equipment, use measurement devices, and assemble parts at distances close to the eyes. Sufficient physical strength is required to perform many duties such as skimming grease from settling tanks, cleaning bar screens, disposing of sand, trash, and other waste, and washing basins and cleaning clarifiers

Working Conditions

Work is performed in both inside and outside in varied environmental conditions, including extreme heat (above 100 deg F) and extreme cold (below 32 deg F). Employee is subject to noise, vibration, and hazards, including a variety of physical conditions such as proximity to moving mechanical parts, fan belts on motors, high voltage electrical current, exposure to chemicals, and atmospheric conditions. Employee is exposed to oils and greases. Employee is required to wear a respirator when required. Employee may work frequently in close quarters, crawl space, shafts, man holes, small enclosed rooms, small sewage and water lines, and other areas which could cause claustrophobia

Education and Experience

Graduation from high school or GED equivalency with post-high school training in the physical and biological sciences. An Associate's degree in a field related to the nature of work performed is desired. And, at least 5 - 7 years experience in the operations and maintenance of a municipal wastewater treatment plant; designation as Back-up ORC (Operator in Responsible Charge) is desired; OR, any equivalent combination of experience that meets the job requirements

Special Requirements

- Valid North Carolina driver's license
- Certified in First aid & CPR; Certified pesticide applicator's license
- Licensed as Grade IV wastewater plant operator

FLSA Status: Nonexempt (eligible for overtime or equivalent compensatory time at 1½ times the employee's regular weekly rate for all hours worked in excess of 40 hours in the City's official work week and not the employee's work schedule)

Disclaimer

This classification specification has been designed to indicate the general nature and level of work performed by employees within this classification. It is not designed to contain or be interpreted as a comprehensive inventory of all duties, responsibilities, and qualifications required of employees to perform the job. The Physical Requirements and Working Conditions section of this classification may vary from position to position and a more thorough description of these elements can be found in the employee's Position Analysis Questionnaire (PAQ). The employer reserves the right to assign or otherwise modify the duties assigned to this classification.

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